Seperate Instructions respecting the
Signal 114 Page 15 of the Signal
Book

1

General purpose of the Signal.

The general purpose of this Signal is to give timely notice of the Admirals Intentions meant to take effect at or after the close of Day; That the divisions or Ships to which they relate, may be suitably prepared when it is thought Expedient, later in the evening or Course of the night, to make the different Signals expressive of those Intentions

2

When a disposition of the Ships different from the prescribed order of Battle is to be made in presence of a Superior enemy

If the Preparation so required respects to a fleet or Squadron of the enemy present Either greater in force and Number of Ships than the British fleet, or which the Admiral may for other Reasons mean to defer bringing to action till at or after the close of day, when he judges it may be done with greater advantage in Two or more Divisions, acting independant of each other; And it then happens That the Circumstances of the Case do not admit of a more leisure Communication of his Plan, He will Signify the Form (if to be different from any before delivered) in which he would have the Ships drawn up for Conducting the Attack after dark by Shewing the Flags Expressive of the Different

Divisions

Divisions, in succession at Proper Intervals and putting abroad with each divisional flag the Signal Pendants distinguishing the Several Ships of which He would have (in Such Succession of Place) each of the Two or more Divisions to consist. The Commanders or Captains are then upon to take their Stations accordingly: and to keep their Ships in readiness for Proceeding to engage the Enemy in the order so pointed out, when the Proper Signal is made for engageing the enemy at or after the Close of day.

3

Of the Conduct to be observed in coming to action with the enemy

The Van division of the British fleet is on those occasions to be placed against the Van of the Enemy, and the rear division against their rear: Each to Each, for engageing independantly, the same number of the Enemy Computing from their Outer or Leading Ships at each extremity of their Line inward towards their Centre, without reference to the admirals motions with the Ships of his Centre Division (if the order be for forming in three divisions) except in the instance of Suffering him to get with that division into action nearly at the same time, The Ships of the Center Division, or that in which the admiral shall have taken his Station are respectively to engage on each Part, the Ships of the Enemy equaly distant ahead and astern of their Commander in Chief.

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4

Ships of the Van or Rear division not otherwise appointed as before are to act with the Centre division

When such Change in the disposition of the Ships more Correspondent to the respective force of the two Fleets has been thought Necessary as aforesaid; and that the Van or Rear division so Constituted is Composed of a less number of Ships then that appropriated for either of those divisions according to the original disposition of the Fleet in the established order of Battle: The Ships of either division omitted in this occasional Arrangement are to Close to the Centre and to act as a part of the Centre division thereafter for the Purpose of such Temporary appointment.

The Commanders to act as they can most Effectually disable the Enemy.

The Commanders and Captains of the different divisions must necessarily be left at liberty to Conduct themselves in Operations of this Kind, as they see they can most effectualy distress the Enemy, without + regard to any stated Intervals of Distance respectively, when come to action with the Enemy, or having other relative attentions requisite to be generally observed on Similar occasions in the day time.

5

If Admiral is meant to confine the attack to any particular part of the enemys line

If from any injudicious position of the Enemy or irregularity observed in their line the Admiral would Confine the intended attack to any Particular parts or Division of their Fleet: or would have it Conducted in any other manner as Provided for by the day Signals, The proper Signal will be made for that

Purpose

Purpose and the White flag Signal (11) shown at the same time, as appointed in the Signal Book, and on these and all other occasions when coming to action with an enemy of Superior force during the night, The Several Commanders & Captains of the Fleet are to repair to join the Admiral in the morning forming in line of Battle a head and astern of him as nearly in equal numbers, and with as much regularity as the Sate of their Ships will permitt, or otherwise holding them in readiness to Proceed on further Service against the Enemy, as he shall then see occasion from their situations by Signal to direct, It is to be further observed that after they have taken such Suitable Stations, they will be Considered in the Admirals future Signals as being of such Division (Starboard or Larboard) of the Fleet, in which they may so happen to be placed, for the further Service to be then Expected

Ships to Repair to join the Admiral as they are able in the morning.

6

Lastly, When it is meant from some change of Circumstances, to Supercede these or other Similar dispositions of the Ships appointed to take place for coming to action near to, or after the close of day, either in order to Substitute some more Seasonable arrange ment instead thereof or entirely to annul the Same; Notice of that determination will be given by repeating the Signal for the

When meant to Countermand any Signal before made for an operation to take place at or after the close of day.

Particular

Particular appointment to be revoked and hoisting the White flag as before with a Blue Pendant over it (Signal 115) after which the Ships are to be continued in such order of Battle or of Sailing as had been previously in force; and to Proceed in all other respects as if no Change in their former disposition or Signal for revoking such appointment had been Previously made.—

Given on board the Victory
the 7 day of June 1782.

J. H. W. C.

To

Captain John Douglas
of His Majesty's Ship
the
Vigilant

By Command of the Admiral.
J. Boyle

RW1176(3)

L.d Howe
Vigilant
Separate Instruc: respecting
the 11th Sect. – 15th page
of the Sig.l Book
June 7.th 1782.

To be kept

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Ch. F. 82